



## CONNECTICUT

TESTIMONY OF  
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS (NFIB)  
BY

ANDY MARKOWSKI, CONNECTICUT STATE DIRECTOR

**SUPPORTING**

**SB-902, AN ACT STREAMLINING AND CREATING A MORE EFFICIENT AND BUSINESS-FRIENDLY REGISTRATION PROCESS;**

**HB-6288, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND STATE SERVICES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES;**

**HB-6316, AN ACT CONCERNING A SINGLE POINT OF ENTRY FOR BUSINESSES AT THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE**

**BEFORE THE  
COMMERCE COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 15, 2011**

*A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB is Connecticut's and the nation's leading small-business association. In Connecticut, NFIB represents thousands of members and their employees and membership is scattered across the state and ranges from sophisticated high technology enterprises to single-person "Mom & Pop" shops that operate in traditional ways. NFIB's mission is "To promote and protect the right of its members to own, operate, and grow their businesses." On behalf of those small- and independent- job-providers in Connecticut, I offer the following comments:*

NFIB/Connecticut supports the three above-referenced bills as an attempt to assist struggling small businesses and promote new business startups. We applaud the proponents' desires to help small businesses and the recognition that small businesses and entrepreneurs are indeed the engine that drives the state's economy. As state lawmakers work towards solutions to help turn the economy around and focus on helping small businesses, whether through these bills or other pending legislation, it should also be noted that in addition to what many think of as a traditional small and micro businesses, it's actually the "midsize" small and independent businesses that will lead us out of the recession (See *Hartford Courant*, "Midsize Companies Key To Economic Recovery", 2/14/10).

While all of the bills in this package are very well-intentioned and we support them, NFIB/Connecticut members suggest that there are numerous additional and perhaps even more impactful measures that state government can take that will help small business, including, but not limited to: 1) Demonstrating fiscal responsibility and reducing state government spending; 2) Refraining from adding any more government mandates on business, small and large alike; 3) Ensuring that workplace freedom continues to thrive; 4) Enacting responsible reforms to the state's unemployment insurance compensation system to prevent or mitigate tax increases as result of the fund's insolvency; 5) Reducing the regulatory burden on small businesses in the state; 6) Focusing on positive healthcare reform measures that reduce costs and increase choice and competition; 7) Enacting meaningful tax relief for small businesses.

Again, NFIB/Connecticut thanks all of the proponents of these bills and the entire Commerce Committee for hearing them and making small business issues a priority this session. We are especially encouraged by HB-6316, which will go a long way toward making business interaction with state agencies much more efficient and transparent. Enactment of these three important measures would be a crucial step towards supporting Connecticut's small-business owners and their workers. Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and NFIB/Connecticut urges passage of these three bills.

National Federation of Independent Business — CONNECTICUT

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